



# NICATOUS LAKE

T3 ND, T40 MD, and T41 MD, Hancock Co.  
U.S.G.S. Spring Lake, West Lake, and  
Gassabias Lake, Me (7½')

## Fishes

Landlocked salmon	Minnows
Brook trout	Golden shiner
Brown trout	Blacknose dace
Rainbow smelt	Creek chub
Smallmouth bass	Fallfish
White perch	White sucker
Yellow perch	Hornpout (bullhead)
Chain pickerel	Banded killifish
	Redbreast sunfish
	American eel

## Physical Characteristics

Area - 5165 acres

Maximum depth - 38 feet

### North Basin

Temperatures:  
Surface - 72°F  
38 feet - 51°F

Maximum depth - 40 feet

### Central Basin

Temperatures:  
Surface - 72°F  
38 feet - 56°F

Maximum depth - 56 feet

### South Basin

Temperatures:  
Surface - 72°F  
45 feet - 58°F

Principal fisheries: Landlocked salmon, brown trout, smallmouth bass, white perch, chain pickerel

Nicatus Lake is a very long, over 8 miles, narrow lake at the head of Nicatus Stream, tributary to the Passadumkeag River. The lake is surrounded by spruce and fir forest with some hardwoods and pine. Many islands are scattered throughout the lake and many of these have a camp or a summer home located on them. For many years, there was a dam on the outlet that held a water level that was 4-5 feet higher than the current level. This high level eroded most of the soil along the present shoreline, resulting in its extremely rocky appearance. There are numerous rocky points and shoals throughout the lake. The bottom is mostly sandy below the rocks and there are several sandy beaches around the lake. Mud bottom and emergent vegetation can be found in many of the coves. The water has a very brown tint caused by the many years of high water levels eroding organic material into the lake. The lake is generally shallow, and although there is some cool water near the bottom, it is very low in oxygen.

Brown trout are stocked each year and do provide a fishery. Salmon spawn in several of the tributaries and outlet, but are faced with heavy competition and predation from the large warmwater fish population. The remnants of the old dam were removed in the late 90's. A structure made of granite blocks was put in place to help maintain the water level and allow free passage for the fish. The lake is well known for its bass, perch, and pickerel fisheries.

There are two areas of development on the lake. There have been several camps and sporting lodges on the north end for many years and recently there has been a large area of camp development along the east shore of the south basin. There is 2-wheel drive boat access at the north and south ends of the lake.

Surveyed - August, 1952  
(Revised - 1996, 2003)  
Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife  
Funded in part by the Federal Aid in Restoration Act under  
Federal Project F-28-P

L4766F